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Urban District of Bedworth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health



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URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDWORTH.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
BEDWORTH.

September, 1944.

To The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit statistical report for 1943.

My term of office did not commence until the 1st January, 1944, and Dr. Webster, who had been your Medical Officer of Health for fifteen years, retired in September of the year under review. Dr. Coote, Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Nuneaton, became Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District from October until the end of the year.

No outstanding epidemics occurred during the year. The vital statistics compare favourably with the country as a whole. The death rate of 8.53 per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate of 49.89 per 1,000 live births are satisfactory figures in comparison with most of the other towns of a similar size. The birth rate for the Urban District was 21.03 which is high in comparison with previous years, the birth rate for the country as a whole being 16.5.

Within the Urban District there are some outstanding Sanitary defects which should be remedied at the earliest opportunity. There are 239 pail closets which to my mind are a nuisance within the meaning of the Public Health Acts. Of these pail closets 70 are situated within reasonable distance from existing sewers. The remaining 169 cannot be connected to the sewer at the present moment, but it is hoped that when the district is reviewed from the sewage disposal standpoint these will also be able to be converted to the water carriage system.

The District of Bulkington has no sewered area. There are, in Bulkington, 300 cesspools, 23 privy middens, and 430 pail closets. A comprehensive sewage disposal scheme would have to be brought into being for this area to conform to modern standards of Public Health. At the present time many of the cesspools have piped overflows into ditches alongside the Public Highway, which is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The housing circumstances of the area leave much to be desired. Much overcrowding exists and much property will have to be dealt with under the Housing Acts on the termination of hostilities. The re-housing of our townsfolk is a measure of prime importance and one which, in my opinion, should be dealt with in the first instance by the erection of factory made houses, which can be erected in a very short space of time. At the same time as these factory made houses are being erected, permanent dwellings should be built in order that the temporary factory made houses can be done away with in a reasonable space of time. Much has been said against the factory made houses, but, in my opinion, it will take a considerable time to build permanent houses after hostilities cease, and the overcrowded families, newly married, and those who are living in unhygienic property would, I am certain, prefer a factory made house, even if it has some defects, than remain for a considerable time in the unsatisfactory conditions in which they are forced to live at the present time.

Various Public Health measures, which will have to be undertaken at the conclusion of hostilities, will, in my opinion, require additional staff. It will be impossible to adequately carry out the Housing programme with only one Sanitary Inspector in an area of the size of Bedworth, and I think the Committee should consider the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector in the near future.

It is never an easy matter taking over a new area, but my work during my short period as Medical Officer of Health has been greatly facilitated by the great help given to me by Mr. Deakin and Miss Leach of the Health Department. My colleagues in the other Departments—Mr. Armson and Mr. Blenkinsop—have been most helpful and I would like to record my appreciation.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I would like to extend my warm thanks for the sympathetic and understanding way you have always dealt with matters appertaining to the health of the District which I have brought before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. G. HORSBURGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

BEDWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**Public Health Committee.**

Chairman : Councillor E. W. RICHARDS.

Councillor A. BUTLER.	Councillor H. SHARRATT.
Councillor S. L. MARSHALL.	Councillor J. A. GRANT.
Councillor F. BENN.	Councillor A. J. JONES.
Councillor J. McMAHON.	Councillor G. S. WHITE.
Councillor Mrs. A. E. SMITH.	

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health.

*†H. G. WEBSTER, M.R.C.S. (Eng). L.R.C.P. (Lond).
*Retired September, 1943.**†P. G. HORSBURGH, G.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
From October, 1943.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

*†G. K. G. COOTE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Acting Medical Officer of Health from October, 1943).

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Other Foods

Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent, etc.

††CHARLES E. DEAKIN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Clerk :

†Miss F. LEACH.

Public Vaccinator :

*C. S. APPLEYARD, M.B., Ch.B.

Clerk of the Council :

†MAURICE ARMSON, F.C.R.A.

Engineer and Surveyor :

†D. BLENKINSOP, A.M.I.M. & Cy. E.

Water Works and Scwage Works Manager :

†C. S. B. COOPER.

Members of the Council :

Chairman—Councillor L. E. GRANT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor J. LUCKMAN.

Councillors C. BATES, A. BUTLER, J. T. GALLAGHER,
L. JONES, I. NEALE, J. A. GRANT, J. McMAHON,
F. BENN, E. W. RICHARDS, E. C. WADDAMS,
Mrs. A. E. SMITH, A. J. JONES, W. L. SHORTRIDGE,
H. SHARRATT, E. TYLER, S. L. MARSHALL,
G. S. WHITE, H. R. STAPLES.

*Part-Time appointment.

†Full-time appointment.

†Salary contribution by Exchequer grants.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Totals	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Live Births	..	236	212	7	6	243	218
						<hr/> 461 <hr/>	

Birth Rate :—21.03 per 1,000 population.

		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Totals	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Stillbirths	..	5	7	1	1	6	8
						<hr/> 14 <hr/>	

Stillbirth Rate :—28.42 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

		Males	Females	Total
Deaths	.. ..	105	82	187

Death Rate :—8.53 per 1,000 population.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	.. ..	21
Illegitimate	.. ..	2—Total 23

Infantile Mortality Rate :—49.89 per 1,000 live births.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

From Sepsis	—	} Total : 2 or 4.21 per 1,000 births (live and still births).
From other causes	2	

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.. ..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough	.. ..	2
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	.. ..	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1943.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	105	82	187
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	—	2	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory system	6	2	8
Tuberculosis—Other Forms	2	2	4
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	6	5	11
Measles	—	—	—
Ae: Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Ae: Inf: Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer	15	7	22
Diabetes	1	4	5
Intraeranian Vascular Lesions	8	12	20
Heart Disease	20	11	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	4
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Pneumonia	8	7	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea—under 2 years	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Premature Birth	6	—	6
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries ; infantile diseases	4	3	7
Suicide	1	2	3
Road Traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	2	—	2
All Other Causes	10	9	19

INFANTILE MORTALITY

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS, 1943.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital defects	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Birth injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile diseases	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Tubercular	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Scarlet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	1	1	7
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ..	9	4	—	1	14	—	7	1	1	23

INFANT DEATHS—WARD

Ward	Males	Females	Total
Bedworth East ..	4	—	4
„ West ..	1	1	2
„ North ..	4	—	4
Exhall East ..	1	1	2
„ West ..	2	7	9
Bulkington ..	—	2	2
Foleshill ..	—	—	—
	12	11	23
	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Infectious Diseases.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporations of Coventry and Nuneaton to receive into their Isolation Hospitals cases of infectious disease occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Small-pox.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporation of Coventry to receive into their Pinley Small-pox Hospital cases of Small-pox occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Tuberculosis.—The King Edward Memorial Hospital, Hertford Hill, is provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee, and is available to patients residing in the Bedworth Urban District.

Maternity.—No Hospital is provided, but private and urgent cases are taken into the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, the Nuneaton E.M.S. Hospital, and the Nuneaton General Hospital.

General.—The Bedworth Urban District is served by the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Orthopaedic.—Patients from the Bedworth Urban District can be sent for consultation and treatment to the Orthopaedic Clinic, "Dunsmore", Holyhead Road, Coventry.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Diseases.—Infectious disease patients are now removed to hospital by ambulances provided by the Coventry and Nuneaton Corporation hospitals.

Accident.—The town motor ambulance is at present controlled by the County Council under Civil Defence arrangements.

LABORATORY WORK.

Specimens of sputum, throat and nasal discharge, etc., are forwarded to the University of Birmingham for examination, the result being communicated to the Medical Officer of Health and to the medical practitioner sending the specimen. Outfits for taking these specimens are supplied by the University Pathological Department. In urgent cases outfits can be supplied on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is situated in Saunders Avenue, Bedworth. The work of this clinic is supervised by a voluntary committee and, in addition, services are provided by the County Council. A school clinic is also maintained at this centre by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Patients attend dispensaries at Coventry and Nuneaton for treatment provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease. Free treatment is provided by the County Council at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. One voluntary Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases—Nil.

Midwives. There are 4 midwives practising in the Urban District, none of whom is subsidised by the Council.

CLINICS.

Service	Situation of Premises	Days Open	Authority Responsible
Maternity and Child Welfare:			
Welfare Centres	Child Welfare Centre Premises Saunders Avne. Bedworth.	Mondays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Warwickshire County Council
	Cricket Pavilion Bulkington.	Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Ditto.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Child Welfare Centre Premises Saunders Avne. Bedworth.	Alternate Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Ditto.
School Medical Service :			
Treatment and Inspection Clinic	Ditto. Ditto.	Mondays and Thursdays, 10 to 12 noon.	Ditto.
Eye Clinic	Ditto.	Fridays, 9.30 to 12 noon when arranged.	Ditto.

WATER CONSUMPTION.

The average daily consumption of water in the District during 1943 was 417,228 gallons, and the maximum consumption in any one day was 486,000 gallons.

The latest chemical and bacteriological analyses are as follows:—

Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

	<i>Exhall Deep Well</i>	<i>Newdegate No. 1 Borehole</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia ..	0.0188	absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0024	absent
Chlorine in Chlorides	19.2000	7.9000
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ..	trace	.02000
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours	0.0270	0.0020
Total solids dried at 100°C. ..	114.0000	56.0000
Appearance	Slightly turbid, many small particles	Bright, few small particles
Nitrite	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent

BACTERIA

No. of colonies growing on Agar- Agar in 2 days at 37°C. per e.e.	10	6
No. of colonies growing on Rebigel- Agar in 2 days at 37°C. per e.e.	6	3
No. of colonies growing on Agar- Agar in 4 days at 20°C. per e.e.	7.800	180
B. Coli. presumptive in 100 e.e. ..	absent	absent

SALVAGE

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
Waste paper	81	3	0
Rags	7	1	0
Bones	2	14	1
Rubber	6	8	0
Ferrous metal	21	3	0

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

EXTRACT FROM REGISTER

Premises licensed for storage of Petroleum	25
" " " " " " Carbide	1
Total storage capacity of Petroleum Tanks	31,300 gls.
" " " " " Carbide Store	448 lbs.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	—	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	9	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1943.

To Dwelling Houses.

Disinfections after infectious disease	..	..	..	167
Disinfections for vermin	..	..	..	51
Re infectious diseases	..	..	..	159
For drain testing	..	..	..	7
Inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	..	1
Re inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	..	4

To Other Premises.

Factorics and Workshops	..	..	..	..	7
Shops Inspected	..	..	..	..	30

To Food Preparing Places.

Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	23
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	41
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	15
Butchers' shops, Stalls, and Vans	..	..	..	..	78

NUISANCES ABATED.

Dwelling Houses—

Defective walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	10
Roofs repaired	..	..	12
Chimneys repaired	..	..	4
Spouting repaired or new provided	..	..	7
Defective floors repaired or renewed	..	..	23
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt	..	..	15
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	..	..	3
Yard paving repaired	..	..	2
Windows renewed or repaired	..	..	17
Wash houses repaired	..	..	2
New water services laid on	..	..	10

Drainage, etc.—

Drainage cleared from obstruction	..	..	24
Drainage inspection chambers provided or repaired	..	..	5
Ventilating shafts improved	..	..	3
Defective drains relaid	..	..	2

Closet Accommodation—

Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	37
New w.c. basins and traps provided	6

Domestic Refuse—

Dustbins provided	27
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Factories and Workshops—

Unsuitable sanitary accommodation improved	2
--	----	----	---

MILK SUPPLY.

Premises in which cows are kept	38
No. of milk retailers, other than producers resident in district	61

HOUSING**(a) Statistics**

Number of new houses erected during the year Nil.

Active housing work had perforce to cease during the year.

Houses demolished during the year were as follows :—

Individual unfit houses	Nil.
Houses included in clearance areas	Nil.
Parts of houses closed	1

DISINFECTIONS

The disinfection of all premises, houses, bedding, etc., is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector after cases of infectious diseases. Steam disinfection is available for bulky goods, such as bedding, etc. Spraying or fumigation with Formalin is the method employed in houses.

Number of rooms 218

MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED

DETAIL	Weight		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
84 tins of meat	1		27
99 tins and jars of fruit, jam, milk, vegetables, fish, etc.	2	1	4
Decomposed beef, mutton, pork and sausages	2		11
Fish	1	1	2
Margarine		2	20
Cheese		1	13
Bacon and ham	1	2	16
1,150 Eggs	1	1	4
Biscuits		1	26
Prunes			25
Cereals			4
Cocoa			7
Total Weight	11	2	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—WARDS

Disease	Ward							Total
	Bedworth E.	Bedworth W.	Bedworth N.	Exhall E.	Exhall W.	Bulkington	Foleshill	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	48	43	18	6	11	11	3	140
Diphtheria	—	—	3	—	3	1	—	7
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	5
P'typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	4	2	—	—	1	—	7
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	51	95	51	16	63	85	—	361
Whooping Cough	5	12	5	1	20	2	2	47
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	8	7	6	10	7	—	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Membranous Group	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1943.

New Cases.					Deaths.			
Age Period	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5			1				1	
5-10								
10-15								
15-20	5	2		1				1
20-25	4	4			2			
25-35	2	3	1	1	1			
35-45	5		1		2			
45-55	1							
55-65						1		
65-over					1			
Totals	17	9	3	2	6	1	1	1

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL, 1943.

Disease	Coventry		Nuneaton		Harboro Magna	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	16	19	16	25	1	2
Diphtheria	1	3	—	2	—	—
Cerebro S. F.	2	—	—	—	—	—
	19	22	16	27	1	2
Deaths						
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	—	—	—

